

Substitute House Bill No. 5476

Public Act No. 14-191

AN ACT CONCERNING A STUDY OF THE FEASIBILITY OF LEGALIZING INDUSTRIAL HEMP.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

Section 1. Subsection (b) of section 16a-23s of the general statutes, as amended by section 6 of public act 14-51, is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2014*):

- (b) The Department of Consumer Protection shall establish a list of all heating fuel dealers that have disclosed offerings of prepaid guaranteed price plans to consumers pursuant to subsection [(c)] (f) of section 16a-23m, as amended by [this act] <u>public act 14-51</u>. Such list shall be made available to the public on the department's Internet web site.
- Sec. 2. (Effective from passage) The Commissioners of Agriculture, Consumer Protection and Economic and Community Development, after consulting with the Attorney General, shall study the feasibility of legalizing industrial hemp for the purpose of encouraging economic development and increasing the number of new businesses in this state. The Commissioner of Agriculture shall study the feasibility of legalizing the production of industrial hemp. The Commissioner of Consumer Protection shall study the feasibility of legalizing the possession of industrial hemp and the Commissioner of Economic and

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Community Development shall study the feasibility of legalizing the sale of industrial hemp. Not later than January 1, 2015, the Commissioner of Consumer Protection shall report, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes, to the joint standing committees of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to agriculture, consumer protection and commerce concerning said commissioners' recommendations on (1) establishing a statutory definition of "industrial hemp", based on the percentage of proposed tetrahydrocannabinol in such industrial hemp, as distinguished from marijuana, (2) amending the general statutes to exclude industrial hemp from the definition of "controlled substance" in section 21a-240 of the general statutes, and (3) establishing a licensing system for industrial hemp growers and sellers.

Approved June 12, 2014